

CHAPTER NO. 136

HOUSE BILL NO. 1532

By Representatives Phillips, Bone

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1916

By Senator Rochelle

AN ACT providing for the erection of a historical plaque near the site of the Waters family homestead in Watertown.

WHEREAS, it is important that the members of the General Assembly should pay tribute to those Tennesseans who have played prominent roles in the development of this great state; and

WHEREAS, the late Wilson Lawrence Waters is one such estimable person, who as a respected community leader, public servant, and family man was admired by others who benefited from his keen intellect and innate political skills; and

WHEREAS, born November 11, 1818, Mr. Waters operated a store in what was then known as the town of Three Forks; in 1845 when the Post Office was moved to his store, the town was officially named Waterstown; and through the years it became known as Watertown; and

WHEREAS, a visionary who owned and was president of the Lebanon to Sparta Turnpike, Mr. Waters was also a farmer and industrialist who organized the Waters & Allen Foundry in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Wilson Lawrence Waters was a leader in the Whig Party, both as a delegate to the 1st National Convention in 1846 in Philadelphia and as a member of the Party that nominated Abraham Lincoln for U.S. president in 1860; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Waters' distinguished public service career also included a term in the 34th Tennessee General Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives, representing Wilson County from 1865-67; and

WHEREAS, in 1844 he constructed a home on what is now known as the Waters homestead, located one block north of the Watertown square; and

WHEREAS, Wilson Lawrence was the proud father of ten children; upon his death in 1903 he was laid to rest in the Waters' Cemetery, three blocks northeast of the town square; and

WHEREAS, in 1934 Watertown was incorporated by Tennessee State Representative Harry Phillips, descendant of the late Mr. Waters and later a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit which sits in Cincinnati, and cousin of our own Representative Pete Phillips; said Pete Phillips being a great-grandson of Wilson Lawrence Waters; and

WHEREAS, the people of Watertown are proud for their town to bear the name of such a remarkable man, whose integrity and dedication to family, along with his adroit service to this great state has benefited countless Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Tennessee Historical Commission is hereby directed to erect a plaque of appropriate size and design to serve as a monument near the site of the Waters' family homestead in Wilson County.

SECTION 2. The purpose for erecting such plaque shall be to recognize Mr. Waters and his contributions to the citizens of Watertown and Tennessee.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 6, 1999


JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 12th day of May 1999


DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR